in licensing will be given to proposals from the Co-operative Sector and the Public Sector, in that order, as compared to the Private Sector.

(b) Preference has been given to the cooperative sector in licensing of new sugar factories in order to improve productivity by associating the farmers, who supply the basic raw material, in the management of the factory. Further, the Co-operative and Public Sectors have often to step in to set up factories in certain new areas and thereby promote the overall development of such areas.

(c) The recovery per cent cane of the cooperative sector has been higher than that of the public and private sectors (for the country as a whole) during the last three seasons (October—September).

(d) No change in policy is contemplated at present.

Central Warehousing Corporation, Calcutta Region

*246. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the casual workers in the Central Warehousing Corporation, Calcutta Region, who have not been absorbed in regular service so far;

(b) what is the number of workers removed from the jobs; and

(c) what are the reasons for their removal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Except one daily rated chowkidar, there is no other casual worker to be considered for absorption in regular service in Calcutta region of Central Warehousing Corporation.

(b) and (c) The various godowns of CWC engage and disengage casual workers depending upon exigencies of work. The number of such workers keeps changing on a virtually day-today basis.

Steel Plant at Daitari, Orissa

*247. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goernment have decided to set up a steel plant at Daitari in Orissa in the joint sector; and

(b) if so, the details of private sector participation, the cost, the capacity and the expected time for the commissioning of that plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Government does not propose to set up a steel plant in the joint sector at Daitari in Orissa. However, the Government of Orissa has intimated that it has on 1-11-1991 entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dr. Swaraj Paul of the Caparo Group to set up an integrated steel plant at Daitari. As per the MOU:

(i) Kalinga Steels Ltd. is expected to be in the private sector with full support from the Government of Orissa.

(ii) The Caparo Group with its associates, in consultation with the Government of Orissa, will form the Board of Management of Kalinga Steel.

(iii) Caparo will arrange to evaluate the different technology options.

(iv) Caparo will arrange a financing package including foreign currency and rupee components.

(v) Both parties agree to start work on this project immediately. The MOU will be appropriately expanded, modified detailed into an agreement in due course.

The State Government has informed that the technoeconomic viability of the project is under examination by the Caparo Group. They expect the production will be about 3 million tons per annum. However, the cost of the steel plant and its expected date of completion has yet to be firmed up by the promoters.

Relief to Gujars and Bakarwals

*250. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Gujars and Bakarwals belonging to Scheduled Tribes suffered losses of life and livestock in Pir Punjal areas of Jammu and Kashmir in 1987, 1988 and 1989;

(b) if so, whether any case for relief is pending; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to expedite payment of relief to them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) The Gujars and Bakarwals have been included in the Tribal list in April, 1991. The question is about their losses of life and livestock in particular areas in Jammu and Kashmir in 1987, 1988 and 1989 before they were declared as Scheduled Tribe. As such, these informations are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committee of Historians

*251. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain historians selected to serve on the Committee of Historians to write post-1947 history have, refused to serve on the said Committee; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether the Stalemate has been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Neither the Government nor the National Advisory Committee set up to prepare the curriculum on the history of post-independent India for school and college levels, has received any formal communication from any member of the Committee declining to serve on the same.

(b) Do not arise.

Tobacco Production

*252. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco production in the country in the year 1990-91 was less than the target; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) The total estimated production of tobacco was 5.58 lakh tonnes during 1990-91. No target was fixed for tobacco production in the country for the year 1990-91.

मध्य प्रदेश में जल विभाजक एंव कृषि प्रणाली संबंधी प्रबंध केन्द्र

*253. **श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी :** क्या **कृषि मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार खाद्य तथा कृषि संगठन/संयक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम की मदद से मध्य प्रदेश में जल विभाजक एवं कृषि प्रणाली संबंधी प्रबंध केन्द्र स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री बलराम जाखड़) : (क) और (ख). "भारत में वर्षा सिंचित क्षेत्रों में जलागम आधारित स्थायी कृषि प्रणाली विकास" नामक एक छत्र परियोजना (अम्ब्रेला प्रोजेक्ट) संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम की सहायता हेतु शुरू की गई है, जिसमें प्रबंध केन्द्र की स्थापना का घटक शामिल है ।